

## Buffalo County Minutes

**Committee/Board: Finance Committee:**

Finance Committee

**Date of Meeting:**

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Chair Dennis Bork called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

**Finance Committee Members Present:** Mr. Dennis Bork, Mr. David Danzinger (via TEAMS), Mr. Donald Hillert, Mr. Brad Schmidtkecht, and Mr. Max Weiss.

**Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting:** Ms. Sonya Hansen, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Tina Anibas, Mr. Dave Rynders, and Mr. Steve Schiffli.

**Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items:** None.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Previous Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding:** Mr. Rynders explained the Federal government had decreased funding of Child Support and this resolution would ask the State to increase funding to help with the cut to Federal funds. Other counties are approving similar resolutions for support. Mr. Hillert made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding CARES Act funding for Public Health:** Mr. Rynders discussed CARES Act funding for Public Health. The original funding was to be \$286,000 and was shown in the resolution approved in December. This resolution was approved pending funding and review in January. Mr. Rynders has now received word that funding will be approved at a larger amount than originally stated. New funding will be in the amount of \$431,000. The contracts have not been signed yet but will be soon. These funds will need to be used for contact tracing, on call pay and vaccination services. Staff is currently working on group 1A vaccinations. They have located volunteers to administer vaccinations to group 1B soon.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding an Update on Vaccination Plans:** Vaccines are being given to Health Care providers, Police, Fire, and EMT. Once this group is done the population that is 65 years of age and older would be given the vaccine. Doctor and nurse volunteers have been obtained to help with the vaccination clinics. The strategy at this time is to have drive-thru clinics to help keep everyone safe. These will be held at different locations in the county. A press release has been issued to have people begin to sign up for the vaccine.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Election Reform/Changes:** Chair Bork and Ms. Halverson discussed the recent election. Ms. Halverson shared some things she found during canvassing that need to be addressed. None of the items would have had an effect on the election, just housekeeping items. Representative Kathleen Bernier is working on legislation for election reform. Ms. Halverson talked about concerns with the voting machines. Wisconsin requires a paper voter verified paper trail on all machines. If a recount is done the votes are counted from this paper trail that the voter has verified prior to casting their ballot. She also talked about issues the media reported with Dominion voting machines. These are the machines used in Buffalo County but are tested before each election and audited after November elections. The Municipal Clerk must test the machines each election by casting votes for each candidate and making sure the machine report matches what has been cast during the test. Ms. Halverson will keep the committee informed of possible legislation on election changes.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Approval of Solid Waste Hauler**

**Applications:** Ms. Hansen reviewed the list of haulers that have applied for the permit. Toy's Scrap would be added to that list as their application was just received. There may be more permits to approve in February as they have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to renew. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Hauler permits by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Resolution to Designate Funding for Buffalo County Broadband Expansion:** This resolution was presented at the Economic Development Committee prior to Finance and passed. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to approve the resolution by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Danzinger. All in favor. Carried.

**Review/Discussion/Action regarding Monthly Vendor Invoices, Vouchers, Employee Payroll, and Funds Investment Report:** The invoices for autopsies and COVID testing were discussed. The status of the Flyway Trail and funding was discussed. There will be a presentation at County Board on Monday night. Invoices for the Tell Farm project were reviewed. These are reimbursed through a grant. A new drill for Extension was purchased. Mr. Weiss made a motion to approve invoices by roll call vote, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. All in favor. Carried.

**Chairperson Report:** Chair Bork reported on a letter that Supervisor Ruff requested approval to send out. The letter would show support for the DNR to purchase land in Buffalo County and Chair Bork approved sending the letter. This will be brought forward at a future County Board meeting.

**Administrative Coordinator Report:** Ms. Hansen reported on sales tax revenue being higher than budgeted despite the pandemic. A claim against the county and the Highway Department for damages caused by debris in the road was received on January 18<sup>th</sup>. This has been sent to the insurance company. Some departments had purchased new technology due to the COVID pandemic. Ms. Hansen requested direction on if she should reimburse those departments from Cares funding that was received. The committee agreed to reimburse the departments. Ms. Hansen will send

a draft letter to all members regarding a request to support asking the state for an increase in the utility tax payment received as each county only received about 20% of the money collected.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Hillert discussed the possibility of using CAPX funds to pay for 50% of the ATV/UTV signs for the county if a route is approved for county roads.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to adjourn at 11:42 a.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roxann Halverson  
County Clerk